



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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A new disease investigation unit to help domestic rabbit breeders solve their mortality problems is now being established at the U.S. Rabbit Experiment Station at Fontana, Calif., according to an announcement made by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Dr. Everett E. Lund has been appointed to head the new unit and his first major research will be to determine specific causes of enteritis, or so-called bloat, which is now responsible for more losses than any other factor. To date it has been impossible to produce, cure, or prevent enteritis with feeds, and all attempts to remedy the condition with medical treatment have failed.

Along with the major study on enteritis, Dr. Lund will collect data on the more common ailments of rabbits such as respiratory diseases, sore hocks, and skin eruptions.

"If rabbit breeders are going to succeed in making their business profitable, they must know how to prevent and treat the diseases which are now killing their animals," Dr. Gabrielson asserted. "The Fish and Wildlife Service has long recognized the need for such research and we hope that this present unit will be the nucleus of a much larger one in the future."

Dr. Gabrielson revealed that if funds can be obtained the Service plans to construct an additional building on the Rabbit Station grounds at Fontana which will be used exclusively as a disease research laboratory.

Dr. Lund was born in Alta, Iowa, on September 7, 1907, and holds three degrees in Zoology, a B.S. from Iowa State College received in 1929, an M.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1930, and a Ph.D. from the same institution in 1932.

From 1932 to 1937, Dr. Lund was associated with the Department of Biology of the American University of Beirut in Syria (now the Lebanese Republic) and from 1937 to 1944 he served as Assistant Professor, and later as Associate Professor of Biology at Alfred University, Alfred, N.Y.

Rabbits are not a new research activity for Dr. Lund. He used them for many years in experimental studies in university classrooms and for histology and anatomy courses. While at Alfred University he raised rabbits for experimental work and also on a semi-commercial basis.

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